



1/3
A-3



LYNX
B-1



Basketball
C-1

Marines return from 9-month deployment

Story and Photo by
Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Combat Correspondent

Marines and Sailors returned home after a nine-month deployment, training the Afghanistan National Army, Friday at the Honolulu International Airport with Embedded Transition Team 5-1, Combat Service Support Group 3.

The service members spent nine months in Afghanistan assisting the Afghanistan National Army with instruction and provided tools previously unavailable to them like howitzers and air support.

"It was a successful mission," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Lopez, a corpsman. "They're good guys and I'm happy to see them back, they deserved it. It was pretty smooth overall, the toughest thing was being there and the language barrier."

Lopez returned after six months because a Humvee accident injured his lower vertebrae.

See *RETURN*, A-5



Captain Wesley Maida and his wife reunite Friday at Honolulu International Airport after his nine-month deployment in Afghanistan training the Afghanistan National Army.



Private First Class Jose A. Rodriguez, rifleman, Headhunter Squad, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provides security for other Marines in his squad while they're in a house asking questions during a census patrol in Haqlaniyah June 15.

1/3 'census squad' weeds out insurgents

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Rick Nelson

2nd Marine Division

HAQLANIYAH, Iraq — Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, conducted a census patrol here to gather information on local residents.

Due to the tempo of hostile attacks when 1/3 first arrived in Iraq, the squad traveled to Haqlaniyah to assist operations by conducting various patrols and missions.

"The information we get from the families is used to pretty much set up a map key, so if we have to go to that house we already have the information regarding it," said Pfc. Sean W. Lynch, squad leader for 3rd squad. "When we enter the house we usually try to determine the basics about the owner like their name, tribe, age and place of birth. We also ask how many people live in the house and write

down their badge number, so we can run their information later on."

Once they record the information, it goes to the company's intelligence representative, who files it for possible later use.

"These types of patrols help us weed out the good guys from the potentially bad guys," Lynch, from Orlando, Fla., said. "For example, we went into a house the other day and the owner was a teacher, so we knew he was really no threat and was here to help the Iraqi children, but when we go into homes of new families, who just moved in from places with known insurgents, we keep a closer eye on them."

Lance Cpl. William D. Hiatt, a team leader, said the patrols are also good for passing information to the locals.

"When it comes up, we let the people know of any new curfew laws or upcoming civil affairs projects," Hiatt said. "It also gives us a chance to hand out candy

and supplies to the children in the area."

Lynch explained they try to get to as many houses as possible during the time allotted for patrols.

"We average [several] houses every time we go out," he said. "The patrols can be pretty dangerous because we're in each house for long periods of time, which means if the enemy knows which house we're in, they have time to maneuver and set up an attack on us."

Hiatt from San Antonio, recalled a grenade attack during a census patrol when he first arrived here.

"We were on a road known for receiving grenade attacks, which is called 'grenade alley' by the Marines, and I looked to my right to clear a fence. When I turned back forward, someone had lobbed a grenade about 10 feet in front of me," Hiatt said. "I didn't even see the actual grenade. I just had enough time to

See *CENSUS*, A-5

CSSG-3 cuts ribbon on new corrosion prevention facilities

Pfc. Brian A. Marion

Combat Correspondent

Senator Daniel K. Akaka and other dignitaries were here Wednesday to officially open new facilities designed to prevent corrosion. Units here now have the ability to more effectively combat corrosion and damage to their vehicles and equipment.

Although Akaka was invited to speak at the ceremony, he said he was just happy to have the opportunity to meet Marines.

"He was happy to see the salt water corrosion facilities up and running," said Jessee Broder Van Dyke, the senator's press secretary. "Since he's the chairman of the subcommittee on readiness and management support he wanted make sure all the branches of the armed forces were ready to go at any time."

The facilities will help clean, rehabilitate and keep military equipment from corroding from the large amounts of salt they're exposed to daily.

"Corrosion is a pretty serious factor here in Hawaii," said Gunnery Sgt. Mitchell Rash, maintenance management officer, Combat Service Support Group 3. "We get a daily deposit of salt and eventually if we don't take care of the vehicles, they will rust and fall into a state of disrepair."

To fight the threat of corrosion, CSSG-3 built three facilities and a station to facilitate the continual maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

"We first have a wash rack which washes away any dirt, salt or volcanic ash that might be on the vehicle," said Hank Porterfield, corrosion prevention and control manager, Marine Corps Systems Command.

The wash rack sprays water around the vehicle being cleaned to include the undercarriage, Rash said.

In addition to the 360-degree cleaning, the rack has various pressure washers to remove the more persistent, hard-to-reach or large chunks of mud that may get on the vehicles.

"We have pressure washers that can spray 150 gallons of water per minute at 150 psi for general cleaning," Porterfield said. "We then have washers that spray 55 gallons at 800 psi for large chunks of mud, and then we have washers that spray seven gallons at 3,500 psi for detailed cleaning."

After the wash, they'll go to a corrosion service team whose main job is to retard or stop any corrosion taking place on the vehicles.



See *RIBBON*, A-5

Hank Porterfield, left, Senator Daniel K. Akaka, and Col. Donald J. Liles, commanding officer, Combat Service Support Group 3, cut the ribbon to open new corrosion prevention facilities Wednesday.

— NEWS BRIEFS —

MARSOC

The Marine Corps Special Operations Command Recruiting team will visit Sept. 3. The brief is at the Civic Center in classroom 5 from Sept. 3 to 6 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Screenings will be on the 6th and 7th at 4:30 a.m. at the base pool. Marines from all military occupational specialties are sought after.

For more information, contact Sgt. Knospler at 760-763-5102.

Native American Volunteers Needed

The National Indian Education Association conducts their 38th Annual National Convention in Honolulu Oct. 25 to 28 at 6 p.m. at the Hawaii Convention Center.

The NIEA has requested a military Joint service color guard consisting of Native-American military members for a patriotic presentation at the opening ceremony of the convention's pow wow.

For more information, contact Dennis Fujii at 477-6282.

Marines Needed for Recruiter Assistance

Want an opportunity to earn promotion points and spend up to 30 days at home without taking leave? The Fourth Marine Corps District is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. The Fourth District covers Washington, D.C., and all or part of the following states: Ohio, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact your recruiter or log onto <http://www.4mcd.usmc.mil/PTAD.asp> for a map of the Fourth District area and the point of contact for your hometown.

Utilities and Energy Conservation Policy

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Base Order 11300.13, Utilities and Energy Conservation policy, restricts irrigation watering hours to the hours of 6 to 8 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., Monday and Thursday for Kaneohe Bay and Camp Smith, and Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for Puuloa and Manana. Additionally, automatic sprinkler systems are to be equipped with a rain gauge and limited to operation during non-daylight hours.

Interactive Customer Evaluation

The Interactive Customer Evaluation is providing customers with a convenient and efficient method to express opinions to service providers and receive feedback. The services will also be available to obtain varied information on varied services throughout Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

We want to know how MCBH services are doing at: <http://ice.disa.mil>. Click on the Marine Corps and Pacific, which lead you to the MCBH community and Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay

For questions, contact the MCBH ICE Site Manager at 257-1283.

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On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

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Submit items for Hawaii Marine to the managing editor no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following address:

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Marines debate new PT gear



Cpl. Mark Fayloga
Community Relations NCO

In case you haven't heard, Headquarters Marine Corps is currently developing a Marine Corps Running Suit. If you surf on over to www.marines.mil you can even take a Physical Training Uniform Survey and cast your vote for which suit you think is more aesthetically pleasing. I have a question for whomever is heading the PT uniform change...

What's wrong with my green on green sweats?

Sweats are great. You know who ran in sweats? Rocky ran in sweats. Rocky! He went from a nobody bum to the world champ and a large part of that transformation was due to running in plain ol' sweats.

Running suits are alright, but do you know who uses running suits to run? The same type of guy who wears a wireless-cell phone headpiece while running -- a yuppie. That's right, I said it.

It's not that the new running suits don't look sharp. They do look good. They just don't look like they fit in the Marine Corps. I believe it would look like a gaggle of soccer moms enjoying a nice jog if I saw a formation of Marines wearing those running suits. I'd probably look around to see if anybody was pushing a bambino in one of those nifty running strollers.

This is why the new suits bother me. I don't want a group of Marines running in formation to look like yuppies. Or even worse, we might be confused with airmen or soldiers.

Some may argue that the PT

uniform needs to be modernized. We need better ventilation or lighter material and that's fine. So take those ideas and apply them to my green on green sweats. We don't need a whole new uniform. Let alone hold a survey on what a running suit needs. That survey should be one question long.

Can you run comfortably in this?

Here are just a few of the "attributes" on the survey singing the praises of the new running suit: straight ankle cuff style, storm flaps on jacket pockets and knee articulation.

You know, I've never once been out for a run in my green-on-green sweats and thought to myself, "Man alive, I could really go for some knee articulation in these sweats." Perhaps it's because I have no clue what "knee articulation" means. I'm no doctor, but I'm fairly certain the knee is that bumpy thing in the middle of my leg. As for articulation -- I have no idea what its definition is, but I do know articulate means the ability to use language easily and fluently. So in these new running suits my knees will become better speakers? That's good I guess, just in case midway through a run somebody challenges my knees to a debate or asks them to be a guest speaker at a graduation or something.

Maybe it's just me, but part of the appeal of the green-on-green sweats is the grunge. They're old school, a bit tougher. A part of why I love being in the Marines is we do more with less. I don't want to wear a running suit to PT. Why sissify our PT uniform? What's next? Are we going to do away with high and tights to embrace faux-hawks as the new Marine haircut?

I urge you, go to <http://www.marines.mil> and take the survey and save our green-on-green sweats. It may be futile to try and save them now, but it's worth a shot. Until the day I'm required to slip into a yuppie suit I will continue to run in my green-on-green sweats, "Eye of the Tiger" blaring in my head.

"Yo, Adrian!"



Gunnery Sgt. Demetrio J. Espinosa
Public Affairs Chief

I've been in the Marine Corps for a few years now. When I came in, you were still allowed to wear brown t-shirts and you either wore cotton Physical Training shorts or the "silkie."

Since I joined though, I've seen the Corps go through a lot of change. We went from woodland and chocolate-chip cammies to digital woodland and desert cammies. We went from ALICE packs to ILBE packs. Now it looks like we're going from cotton sweat suits to a tracksuit.

I can tell you that when the new cammies came out I hated them. I hated that the thing that made Marines look so much better than the other services was the pride we took in shining our boots and starching our cammies. I remember when I found out they were testing out new cammies. I saw the first designs. They were horrible. There were tiger stripes, zip-off sleeves and pant legs and a zippered blouse. I hated them. At the time I worked at the Marine Corps Recruiting Command helping to create advertisements for the Marine Corps. Even at that level, I found it difficult to convince Marines, let alone civilians, that a digital camouflage uniform was better than what was out there. So I learned more. I found out that the new uniform was technically advanced to what we had. The digital pattern made it harder to see a Marine on the battlefield. The boots were more comfortable and the uniform wouldn't have to be ironed or starched and the creases were permanent.

I learned that someone at Headquarters Marine Corps was looking out for the young Marines on the front lines, trying to give them the equipment they needed to be better warfighters. I learned there was a change in how Marines thought. It used to be we did more with less because we had to. Now we look to see if we can do more with what we have. The cammies changed first, then the boots, then the undershirts. Now we're looking at changing how we PT, and I think it's a good thing.

The current uniform we have works well, there is no argument, but could it work better? Could it regulate your body temperature better? Could it be used in more extreme temperatures? Could you run in the rain and not feel like you were wearing 15 extra pounds? The answer is it can. Going to a tracksuit engineered to enhance your performance is a good thing. Just ask any Marine who has been to Iraq or Afghanistan. Is synthetic, sweat-wicking, flame retardant material better than cotton?

I can tell you from experience it is. I was in the desert in 2004 waiting for approval to wear it. Then I switched; it was like night and day. I could have easily stayed with my cotton t-shirts, but my performance would suffer. Those sweaty shirts combined with sweat and dust makes life harder than it should be. If you're going for long enough, it can cause injury. I had my dirty cammies and shirt rub my skin raw after a 12 to 14-hour operation. Multiply that by a platoon or company, and you have a lot of injured Marines out of the fight for something that could've been avoided using the latest technology.

In this day and age I like to think as Marines we're smart, tough elite warriors and that we fight smarter not harder. I like to think that in the end the uniform doesn't make the Marine: his heart, determination and esprit de corps make him a Marine. The suit will make us look like everyone else out there, but the Marine wearing them will ensure that when someone sees one running by they will know a Marine is charging through.

A job well done



Lieutenant Col. William G. Perez, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion, addresses Marine representatives from Legal Services Center, Transportation Management/ Supply Office, Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, G-6, G-3, Combat Camera, Installation Personnel Administration Center's 2nd deck, G-8, Headquarters Battalion Command Element and Bulk Fuels after going 180 days incident free here. The safety representatives from each section received letters of appreciation, and the sections themselves received Certificates of Commendation.

Pfc. Brian A. Marion

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 11 and 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

High — 84

Low — 76

Saturday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 11 and 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

High — 84

Low — 76

Sunday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

High — 84

Low — 76



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan E. Knotts, corpsman, MAP, Charlie Company, 1/3, checks a local Iraqi boy's wound after he was wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade during a firefight in Haqlaniyah.



Seaman Mike Ewing, corpsman, Charlie Company, 1/3, looks down a road for oncoming traffic while holding security for the Marines.

Charlie Company changes tempo of city

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Rick Nelson

2nd Marine Division

HAQLANIYAH, Iraq — From dodging improvised explosive devices to insurgents throwing grenades at their forward operating base and patrols, Charlie Company continues to engage an adaptive enemy.

Since arriving in early April, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, has spared no effort to stop insurgent activity and help the Iraqi people in their area of operations.

“Since we’ve been here attacks have vastly dropped from what they were,” said Cpl. Christopher Adamski, an intelligence analyst with Charlie Company, 1/3. “I believe this change is directly associated with the way Charlie Company has been conducting itself during combat operations and missions.”

Adamski said Haqlaniyah’s atmosphere is outstanding compared to when they first arrived.

“The Marines act and the locals see that,” 21-year-old Adamski said. “They see a competent force with me willing to risk their lives to improve a city that isn’t their own.”

Adamski, from Dallas, said he thinks a lot of the improvements are due to the way 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, left the area.

“Charlie came in and followed the footsteps of a great unit,” he said. “That played a big role in the current situation.”

Sergeant Kenneth M. Jones, noncommissioned officer-

in-charge, Detainment Facility, Charlie Company, 1/3, said when they first arrived the people seemed to shy away from the Marines.

“They now tell us they’ve been reassured by the way we do business,” Jones said. “We seem to be building more relationships with the people and when the time comes for us to turn over the area to the next unit it will be even better for them.”

Adamski said it took a while for the locals to get comfortable with new Marines in the city.

“The people acted like any person would when strangers arrive in their city,” Adamski said. “Marines have been in Iraq for a couple years now; however, as new Marines rotate in, the local populace has to get the right vibe from them before they can trust them.”

Due to Charlie Company’s outstanding intelligence operations, they’ve found caches, high level individuals, and IEDs, Adamski said.

“It isn’t just Charlie Company finding all these things,” he added. “The Haqlaniyah Iraqi Police are an invaluable asset to the company. Without them, the information flow into the intelligence cycle wouldn’t be as clear. They are an excellent group of individuals.”

Adamski said the local people also help the Marines by providing Charlie Company with valued information.

“The local people are doing a great job letting us know who is new in the area and could be a possible insurgent,” Jones said. “Without the assistance of the people we wouldn’t be doing as well as we are.”

Adamski said the locals seem happy when they see the Marines patrolling through their area.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan E. Knotts, corpsman, MAP, Charlie Company, 1/3, checks a local Iraqi boy's wound after he was wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade during a firefight.

“The people still need us. The economic situation here is extremely bad but lately has been improving. The local security force is currently being established. Although we’ve been in their country for a long amount of time, they are very appreciative of the forces in the area and support us, he said.”



Seaman Mike Ewing, corpsman, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, plays with a group of Iraqi children during a census patrol June 13, in Haqlaniyah.

Former POW survival story: Coffee describes ordeal in North Vietnam

**Story and Photo by
Pfc. Brian A. Marion**

Combat Correspondent

For thousands of years, nations around the world have taken prisoners during wartime. Some nations are kind to their prisoners while other nations aren't. The prisoners endure many hardships from those nations, and when they return home they find it's completely different from when they left.

On August 9, non-commissioned officers, civilian, Marines and Sailors had the opportunity to listen to retired Navy Captain Gerald Coffee as he described being a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

In his lecture, Coffee described how faith in his family, companions, himself and religion kept him alive and from breaking under hardships endured during his internment.

His introduction to North Vietnam happened when his RA5-C "Vigilante" reconnaissance jet was hit by anti-aircraft fire.

"As we started to head back to sea, the gauges started flickering," Coffee said. "We started spinning out of control and I yelled back to my co-pilot, 'Eject! Eject! Eject!'"

His jet was heading toward Earth at 680 mph when Coffee finally ejected.

"All I can say is that God's hand was on my shoulder," he said. "All the automatic functions of the seat worked properly, and somehow I was able to release myself from the seat after it hit the water."

After he surfaced in the water he found he was close to land and the Vietnamese were already sending ships to retrieve him and his co-pilot.

"It became very clear to me at that point that my capture was imminent," Coffee said. "Their pontoon boats quickly reached us and they pulled us into them and stripped off all our gear."

He told how the boats were shot by U.S. fighters and about the fate of his copilot.

"Our backup finally arrived in the form of some A1-Skyscrapers, and they started firing their 20mm guns at the boats. They did strafing run after strafing run, and the Vietnamese were returning fire after each pass. We made



Retired Navy Captain Gerald Coffee recounted his experience as a prisoner of war to non-commissioned officers and above Aug. 9 at the base theater. Coffee spent seven years and nine days as a North Vietnamese POW during the Vietnam War.

our way to the shore, but as we came close to it, they brought in an A4 and blew up the boats. Somewhere in the firefight, my copilot was killed."

Coffee was then taken to the city of Hanoi and placed in the prison camp called Hao Lo, more commonly known as the "Hanoi Hilton."

"It took us 12 days of marching north to reach the city of Hanoi," Coffee said. "When we finally reached the prison, they led me to

my cell and put me in it."

The cell was 3 feet wide and 6.5 feet long. It had a heavy wooden door, a bucket in the corner, a small window located near the top and a 20-inch concrete slab jutting from a wall to serve as a bed.

"The whole cell reeked of human misery from the previous occupants," Coffee said.

The Vietnamese tried to exploit their prisoners of war for information and the prisoners had to rely on each other and their faith.

"I prayed a lot," Coffee said. "At first I expected God to do everything for me, but when I realized that this would be my life for a while, the nature of my prayers started to change. Instead of praying, 'Why me?' I started to pray, 'How can I change?'"

Coffee then explained how four aspects of his faith: faith in himself, faith in one another, faith in his country and his faith in God, kept him alive and brought him back with honor and dignity.

He first talked about faith in himself and how he used to exercise both his body and mind.

"I used to walk miles inside my cell, just shuffling back and forth," Coffee said. "I also used my bed for both push-ups and sit ups. It was important for me to continue exercising because I didn't know when I was going to be released."

"You would think that with nothing to do, your mind would become unused, but the opposite happened," Coffee said. "The other prisoners and I found anything and everything to talk about. We picked each other's brains for all our information, which included memorizing and composing poems."

Coffee said it was important to keep a good sense of humor in order to survive and return home with honor.

"I remember one of the times they let us shower," Coffee said. "It was one of the few times we were allowed to be alone. As I was holding onto the showerhead, letting the water pore over, I looked up at the wall in front of me, and someone before me wrote a little message there. It said, 'Smile. You're on Candid Camera.' And I couldn't help but laugh at it."

Coffee then explained how keeping faith with one another helped him overcome difficulties.

He explained how they used to talk for hours by tapping on the walls in a code.

"We needed one another in there," he said. "Our strength lay in our unity to each other, and it was based on our trust and faith to each other."

"There was this one guy who was chained to his bed and had his arms locked behind him," he said. "Every night the other prisoners and I would tap on his walls 'G B,' which mainly meant 'God bless,' but also meant, 'I'm praying for you. Hold on in there. We are with you.'"

Coffee said he had to keep faith in his country by remembering all his country's good.

"All we heard from the Vietnamese was the bad news," he said. "We heard about the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy. We heard how our families didn't want us anymore and how the government wasn't going to try for us. We had to keep faith in what we had at home and in the freedoms we had there."

Coffee then got to the last aspect of faith, his faith in God. He talked about how God was his strength during that period and how he was able to get through it.

"All those years, the Vietnamese tried to rape our spirits and our faith, but they couldn't do it," he said. "I was never really alone in that cell. Not with Him by my side."

After seven years and nine days of captivity, the North Vietnamese allowed Coffee and his fellow service members to return home.

Coffee's lecture received a standing ovation, and Col. Mark A. Dungan, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, presented him with a K-bar as a token of appreciation from the base.

"He shared a connected existence with everyone over there," Dungan said. "The people with him helped him cope with the problems for seven years and nine days, and it was faith that got them through. He is probably the epitome of showing leadership under stress and had turned his adversity into an advantage."

Blinded by patriotism



Christine Cabalo

Corporal Aaron Quiorz, barracks noncommissioned officer, Wounded Warriors Company, serves a ping-pong ball to Cpl. Ryan Irving, infantryman, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Both played table tennis shaded by newly installed blinds provided by Armed Services YMCA at Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe Bay Officers' Spouses' Club.

Right: Vietnam veteran Ken Miyaji, owner, Blinds of Hawaii, installs new white blinds Friday at the Wounded Warriors Company lounge. Funds to install the window treatments were donated by the Armed Services YMCA at Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe Bay Officers' Spouses' Club.



Christine Cabalo



Colonel Mark A. Dungan, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii presents Mia Ng, Lodge manager with a food and hospitality award for distinguished excellence Aug. 8 at the Fairways Bar and Grill.

MCCS Hawaii rewarded for exceptional service

Story and Photo by
Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Community Services Hawaii's food and hospitality division was awarded Aug. 8 for excellent quality and service. Kahuna's Sports Bar and Grill, Officers Club, Pacific Command Food Court and the Lodge at Kaneohe Bay received the awards at the Fairways here from Col. Mark A. Dungan, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Hawaii's food and hospitality division received the awards for providing exceptional service. This is the seventh award the lodge has received, fourth for Kahuna's, and second for the Officers Club, said John Nishida, director, food and hospitality, MCCS. "It was open to all food services from all bases," Nishida said. "We just provide the best service and are recognized for it. Each year we'll put in a packet and it's a great surprise when we are recognized." Dungan presented recipients with a plaque commemorating their achievements. "I wanted to do this," Dungan said. "I'm

proud of them and I've been working with some of these guys for years and know the quality of service they provide is excellent. We're fortunate to have these people working with us and this isn't the last time they'll win." The recipients were rewarded for overall performance and exceeding normal operation requirements. Factors including breaking even or turning a profit, sanitation, safety, financial stability, new items in menus and staff efficiency, said Don Figueira, manager, Officers Club. "We work very hard," Figueira said. "We try to be the best and it's not the first time we've been recognized for it." While the managers of each respective service personally received the award, they maintain that they received it on behalf of all their workers. "It was a collective effort," said Mia Ng, manager, The Lodge. "It was everyone who works daily who earned this award and they deserved it." Hawaii displayed the high standards of service for this fiscal year and that's clearly evident in the recognition it was presented, Nishida said.

RIBBON, from A-1

"The CST does spot painting and sprays corrosion inhibitors onto the vehicles, so that they would be able to at least slow down the corrosion, and if possible, stop the corrosion right there," Rash said. If a vehicle can't be restored to a deployable condition, then it's taken to a corrosion rehabilitation

building where they'll attempt to refurbish the vehicle. After vehicles and equipment are brought to deployable status, any unused equipment goes into a storage facility. "The storage facility is kept at 50 percent or below humidity all the time," Rash said. "What this does, is it helps keep the equipment from corroding. We

can monitor the equipment from the offices and see if there is any change in the humidity levels. When a unit deploys and they need their equipment, we can break it out of storage and it will be ready for them to deploy with." "We here at Kaneohe Bay now have all the tools necessary to completely combat corrosion," Porterfield said.

RETURN, from A-1

The Marines had wives and family waiting to greet them with a warm welcome. "It's fantastic," said Tina Stocks, wife of 1st Sgt. David Stocks. "I tried to be strong while he was gone, but now I'm crying. I'm glad he's back, the stress of being a geographically-separated single parent is hard, and now it'll be better to have two parents, besides the fact that I have him near." Numerous service members endured mental and physical obstacles during their extensive deployment, some enjoying it more than others. "It was friggin' awesome," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Mark, a field medical corpsman. "I had a lot of fun fighting with these guys, and I thought it was very successful. There are obvious downsides like hiking up mountains and getting shot at, which sucked, but overall I think the ANA learned a lot. We helped them overcome a lot of combatants." Some Marines were injured during the deployment. "There was a lot of fighting toward the end," said 1st Lt. Jose Colunga, platoon commander. "We were conducting a search of a vil-

lage and we encountered more fighters than anticipated. We ended up getting drawn into an L-shaped ambush and then getting hit from our left flank. They pretty much pinned us down and on top of it they called mortars on us too." As Colunga recalled the terrifying night, he showed that his forearm and shoulder bear the "souvenirs" from his ordeal. "Yea, I ended up catching a few bullets that night, and luckily it wasn't anything too serious. Slowly we fought our way back to 173 Airborne," he said. Marines had a positive outlook for the future of the ANA, and thought they were on their way to becoming a more capable fighting force. "I know the ANA was capable before, but they are definitely improving and on the road to being fully capable," Colunga said. "They just need better organization and better planning, and of course, the essential tools of air and ground support." As the service members collected their belongings and said goodbye to some of their fellow "brothers," they changed gears, mindsets and resumed life with loved ones and friends.

CENSUS, from A-1

look in front of me and see a huge explosion." The grenade's impact threw Hiett against a wall, but no harm was done to him or any of the Marines in his squad. "Now I know the city like the back of my hand. I know there's always going to be threats, so we have to continue to stay on our toes," Hiett said. Private First Class Jose A. Rodriguez, rifleman, explained how he was formerly assigned to Alpha Company and used to hear stories about Haqlaniyah's hostilities. "We would always hear how much contact Charlie Company was taking, so when I found out I was going to Haqlaniyah I was nervous, but a little excited at the same time," Rodriguez said. "Once I got to Headhunter, Charlie Company took a few attacks, but shortly after it seemed to go down to hardly any hostile acts."

Rodriguez said he enjoys being assigned to 3rd Squad, 5th Platoon and is kept busy due to the fact that they're utilized as a mounted and dismounted unit. "We're constantly going on patrols and missions, so it can be pretty demanding," Rodriguez, from Spring, Texas, said. "I'm glad we're keeping busy though. There may be days when it's physically hard, but then you come back to the [forward



Lance Cpl. William D. Hiett, team leader, Headhunter Squad, Charlie Company, 1/3, plots a coordinate in his global positioning system June 15 during a census patrol in Haqlaniyah. operating base] and know you've accomplished the mission and a sense of pride sets in." Hiett described the time he's spent in Haqlaniyah as a great experience and is glad to be there because he feels he's more useful. "Working with the people and breaking the language barrier is amazing," Hiett said. "Being out here, I actually feel like I'm making a difference and actually helping the Iraqi people." Third Squad, 5th Platoon will continue conducting mounted and dismounted patrols throughout Haqlaniyah until their scheduled return to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

AROUND THE CORPS

‘Devil Dogs’ get new digs in al Asad, Iraq

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Ryan R. Jackson

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

AL ASAD, Iraq —

Devil Dogs here are training and living in new facilities: kennels.

The four-legged, hairy warfighters, known throughout the Corps as Military Working Dogs, work for Task Force Military Police, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. Although the teufelheundens are a bit different from their human counterparts, all are benefiting from new kennels that took a year and a half to make and cost about \$400,000.

The kennels are a big step in the right direction to properly house and care for the dogs, according to 1st Lt. William Turner, military working dog officer-in-charge.

The facility features include running water and drainage, a rinse tub for washing the dogs and larger training grounds and break areas.

The new training area contains a large obedience course, which is a set of obstacles designed to strengthen a dog and handlers teamwork.

The biggest addition to the new facility is the capacity to house 12 dogs. For normal operational purposes each forward operating base normally maintains only a few dogs.

With the increased housing capacity, al Asad will eventually become the



Sergeant Nancy Hinostroza, Multi National Forces-West regional kennel master, gives tours of the new kennel facility to visitors after a ribbon cutting ceremony July 18. At the old kennel facility the dogs slept in cages below their handlers' beds. At the new facility each dog has its own kennel and the handlers have their own rooms which improves sanitation conditions.

main hub for military working dogs as other bases close down and troops draw back, according to Multi National Forces-West regional kennel master Tech. Sgt. Nancy Hinostroza.

The biggest difference between the old kennels and the new facility is the billeting situation.

In the old kennels, dogs slept in cages beneath the handlers' beds and there was almost no separation between the two throughout the day.

Now, each dog has its own large kennel and each handler has his own room.

“They are the first pro-

fessional kennels in MNF-W,” Turner said. “The restrictions being in a combat zone has always forced the handlers and dogs to live together, but here we are able to separate them out in a more professional manner.”

Separating the teams is more hygienic and keeps each end of the team healthier.

“The new kennels are more sanitary, in our old kennels we didn't have anywhere to bathe the dogs,” Hinostroza said. “Now, we have an actual break yard where the dogs can stretch out and it's great for training.”

The new facility is geared toward expanding on the dogs' needs. The training grounds and hygiene equipment lead to better physical health of the furry war fighters, while separating them from their handlers improves their mental health.

“Now we get some separation, we're not with our dogs all day,” Hinostroza said. “Sometimes you just need a break from your dog. Now, when we get them they are like ‘Come on, take me out!’ instead of like ‘Good morning, what's going on?’ they are much happier to see us.”



Sergeant Aaron DeSalvo, a military working dog handler, walks his dog Kelsey through the obedience course at the new kennel facility. The facility has an improved break yard and larger obedience course, which is used to improve the dog's and handlers' teamwork skills.



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